Cezar Ionescu (University of Oxford):

An Episode in the History of Mathematics in the Humanities

Abstract:

I will present an example of mathematics applied to the humanities, namely Andre Weil's appendix to Claude Levi-Strauss' book "The Elementary Structures of Kinship". The book is considered one of the most important texts in anthropology, but Weil's contribution did not really make much of an impact (the Wikipedia pages on Levi-Strauss and Andre Weil, for example, do not even mention it). I hope it will be interesting to consider the reasons of that neglect.